

# BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 2021

## SUPPORTING LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

**VOLUNTEER WITH  
THE CHAMBER**

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**CHAMBER CHASE  
CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP**



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# BUSINESSVIEW

MOBILE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 2021

## IN THE ISSUE



### 14 ON THE COVER:

*The Mobile Area Chamber supports small businesses and encourages shopping local this holiday season and all year. See our special section featuring local member retailers to help you shop local. Read more on pages 14-26. Photo by Toni Riales.*



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## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

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### CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:

## CHAMBER CHASE 2021

Terry Harbin, Chamber Board Chair

*Editor's Note: Harbin has chaired the Mobile Area Chamber's board of directors since January 2020.*

As the saying goes, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." That has been true in much of my life and work experience and the same can be said for Chamber Chase, the annual 16-week total resource campaign to help fund events and activities held each year by our Mobile Area Chamber.

It was 10 years ago in May of 2011 that I had the opportunity to lead Chamber Chase. Its importance to the Chamber and the funding of our economic development activities has only increased each year. The campaign accounts for roughly one-third of our annual budget and that is significant.

We have great volunteer leadership that gives up 16 weeks of their lives to follow every instruction "CG" gave to make the campaign a success. I couldn't mention volunteer leadership without a huge shout-out to Melissa Cross, who led us two years in a row, setting the bar high for our next Chamber Chase leader.

No article on Chamber Chase would be complete without saying a big THANK YOU to Carolyn Golson who has kept us all on track for the last 33 years. CG, we wish you all the best in your upcoming retirement. You will be missed!



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The Center for Health Sciences will provide Nursing and Physical Therapy Assistant students experience in treating patients and solving complex problems in state-of-the-art simulation labs.



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# C SPIRE COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION OF 225-MILE FIBER OPTIC CABLE ROUTE



C Spire completed a 225-mile-long fiber optic cable route from Kiln, Miss. to Mobile to rapidly deploy next-generation technology infrastructure for consumers and businesses.

“Not only are we connecting our legacy fiber network in Mississippi which we’re using to launch new, ultra-fast internet access for consumers in Biloxi, Gulfport and Ocean Springs, but it also helps us expand our reach into Alabama in Mobile and Baldwin counties and Mobile Bay,” said C Spire Chief Network Officer **Alan Jones**.

The company is expanding its ultra-fast broadband internet services to consumers and businesses in Alabama as part of an overall \$1 billion investment announced earlier this year to speed the development and deployment of fiber broadband and network enhancements across its three-state footprint.

“C Spire now can deliver low-latency, secure and highly reliable services from Pearlington to Perdido – that’s a huge lift to the economic growth potential of this region,” said **Ben Moncrief**, managing director of Alabama and senior vice president of strategic relations for C Spire. Symmetric speeds solve real-world challenges associated with interactive learning, remote work and telehealth applications, he added.

According to a company news release, Alabama ranks 38<sup>th</sup> nationally in broadband access. State leaders have made access to fast, reliable and affordable internet for rural areas a priority through state funding and creation of the Alabama Rural Broadband Coalition, a group of community, business and government leaders dedicated to job creation, economic development and business growth.

“High-speed Internet and specifically fiber-based broadband is critical to business operations as well as their employees, with more of them working from home,” said **David Rodgers**, vice president of economic development for the Mobile Area Chamber. “Reaching into Mobile and expanding our infrastructure is an important asset in the Chamber’s economic development efforts. This project also has an important job-creation component and is helping bridge the digital divide for the businesses and people in our area.”

“C Spire can now deliver low-latency, secure and highly reliable services from Pearlington to Perdido – that’s a huge lift to the economic growth potential of this region.’

**Ben Moncrief**, managing director of Alabama and senior vice president of strategic relations, C Spire

# SMALL BUSINESS CENTER OPENS AT GOVERNMENT PLAZA

The City of Mobile's new Small Business Center is now open on the fifth floor lobby of Government Plaza. The center includes two kiosks to help businesses become certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

"These certifications help individuals and local businesses find work on projects implemented by the city and other public entities that receive federal grant funding," said Mobile Mayor **Sandy Stimpson**.

"In addition to helping the businesses themselves, the new Small Business Center will help the city find needed contractors for our ongoing projects – particularly those overseen by our Neighborhood Development Department. It will allow our staff to better help business owners navigate the steps needed to become a vendor with the city and compete for public contracts."

To make an appointment with the center, call the Office of Supplier Diversity at 251.208.7632.



*Voted Newsweek's 2021*

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Trey St. John, CEO  
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Solutions, Inc.



Port City Industrial is a full-service material-handling equipment supplier. Pictured from left to right are JP Green, Vince McKeough, Michal Weaver, Nick Nichols, Avis Corley, Bill Willey, Amy Maxwell, Austin Vaughn, Dylan Ragland, Mike Weaver, Ronald Whitt, Jamie Tapia, Phil Cupitt, Hays Tapia and Jad Pope. Photo by Mike Dumas

# AN ENTREPRENEURIAL STARTUP SUCCESS STORY

**L**ike a good marriage, a successful business requires constant and respectful communication, determination and commitment to a variety of shared goals. **Jamie** and **Hays Tapia** are the living embodiment of these principles, having applied them not only to their budding family, but also to their company, Port City Industrial.

The full-service material-handling equipment supplier is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

Although Jamie, the company's president, describes Port City as a niche business, it has a broad reach in the Mobile Bay area's growing industrial landscape and that of the greater Gulf Coast.

"We really are a one-stop shop for warehouse supplies and equipment," she said. "It starts with commercial overhead doors and loading dock equipment and goes to pallet racking and high-speed fans and conveyors, down to stretch film and trapping and tape."

Hays worked in distribution for the better part of two decades. When he and Jamie wed, the two leaned on the lessons each were taught growing up – primarily that it usually works out better if you're the one to sign your own paychecks. So they created Port City Industrial as a part-time concern.

As they got more and more experienced at the helm – Hays is the company's vice president and head of sales – they saw a huge opportunity in selling used equipment.

"No one was doing that," Jamie said.

They started liquidating warehouses that were going out of business, listing the surplus items on various sale forums and groups. That was the market disruptor the pair was looking for, so they jumped in with both feet in 2015 and led the company full-time.



Photo by Mike Dumas

Port City Industrial grew steadily from that point, and by 2019 it had nine employees. The Tapias saved costs by operating a warehouse only, while Jamie ran the business office from a desk at the Container Yard coworking space in downtown Mobile. Looking to transform the business, she applied for and was accepted to the Chamber’s custom executive entrepreneurial training program, Roadmap for Growth.

“We were an entrepreneurial startup that needed to make the transition to a professionally managed company,” Jamie said. That’s exactly what happened, and Port City Industrial became a company that can operate autonomously and scale to any client’s needs – including major clients like MTC Logistics, the \$58 million distribution facility at the Port of Mobile, opening later this month.

**COMPANY NAME:** Port City Industrial  
**OWNER:** Jamie and Hays Tapia  
**PHONE:** 251.277.3444  
**WEBSITE:** portcitymobile.com



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The Mobile Area Chamber customizes its “Shop Local” campaign for special occasions year-round from Mother’s Day to Christmas to encourage people to shop at local small businesses. On the following pages, a few of our retail members showcase some of their products for your holiday shopping list.

# METZGER’S

3702 Dauphin St., Mobile

[facebook.com/MetzgersClothing](https://www.facebook.com/MetzgersClothing)

**Store hours:** Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more than 100 years, Metzger’s Inc. has been a better men’s and ladies apparel store, family-owned for three generations. It offers personal service with in-house alterations. Products include women’s daytime apparel, cocktail apparel, mother of the bride as well as Mardi Gras apparel and furs. Men’s clothing includes well-known lines from sportswear to suits, sport coats and formal wear.

The pandemic hit Metzger’s hard, “as it did all small businesses,” said **Ken Metzger**, president. “But when people realized in about mid-February the world was not going to end, they began shopping again, and we have had one of the biggest years since the hurricanes of 1995.”

“When buying from us, you can be assured of the quality and it is a lifetime purchase,” Metzger said. “Buying local does not cost more, and the money stays local.”

## TOP GIFT SUGGESTIONS

**MEN:** Sport coats in great colors that can be worn dressy or with a pair of jeans

**WOMEN:** An inexpensive Rex rabbit jacket or a simple wallet

**FRIEND/CO-WORKER:** A gift card so they can choose their own special gift

Photo by Toni Riales



# SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON





*Pictured from left to right are Stan Hackney, curator; Geri Mitchell, store and front desk associate; and Lianna Kenney, finance director for the Mobile Museum of Art.*

# THE ART STORE

**Mobile Museum of Art**  
4850 Museum Dr., Mobile  
[mobilemuseumofart.com/art-store](http://mobilemuseumofart.com/art-store)  
**Museum hours:** Tuesday through  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Art Store at the Mobile Museum of Art specializes in works by local and regional Southeastern artists. The store has works in every medium including painting, drawing, ceramics, glass, jewelry, woodwork and sculptures.

Because of the pandemic, the Art Store now operates 24/7 online with a curated selection of merchandise. “We’ve added curbside pickup for online shoppers,” said **Deborah Velders**, director of the Mobile Museum of Art. “We also offer local delivery for Mobile County shoppers.”

Velders urges shoppers to make purchases early to make sure your gifts arrive on time, to look for one-of-a-kind items for those on your list who have everything and to avoid buying a gift just to cross a name off your list. “Recipients recognize and appreciate the thought you put into your choices,” she said.

## TOP GIFT SUGGESTIONS

**MEN:** Gift certificates for adult art classes, a varied selection of turned woodworks and catch-all dishes, perfect for home or office

**WOMEN:** Casual and elegant jewelry, gift certificates

**CO-WORKER/FRIEND:** Ceramic mugs or bowls by a variety of artists, museum membership

**KIDS:** Unique pieces of artwork to display in their rooms or a private, two-hour visit with friends and family to the exhibition “FOR CHILDREN: The Elements of Art & Design.”

Photo by Toni Riales



# THE HOLIDAY

4513 Old Shell Rd., Mobile  
shoptheholiday.com

**Store hours:** Monday through Saturday,  
9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A staple in the Mobile community since 1955, The Holiday is a women's and children's clothing boutique committed to "dressing the generations." The store carries designer lines for women and children from newborn to 100. "Since taking ownership of the store, we have also begun carrying gifts and home accents as well as men's accessories," said **Mary Lacey R. Zeiders**, owner.

Zeiders and her staff stayed flexible to meet customers' needs during the pandemic.

She noticed that, quarantined or not, people continued to shop around the clock. She took the opportunity to overhaul the store's website and create a more robust online presence with live Instagram events, and launched an Instagram account simply for sale items.

Zeiders urges shoppers not to wait to get the items you want. "Since the onset of COVID, the supply chains have been delayed, from the fabric to the garment production to the shipping, and we have not been able to do nearly as many reorders," she said. "Now, more than ever, what we receive is it. So, if you see something you like, grab it, because things are going fast!"

## TOP GIFT SUGGESTIONS

**MEN:** Brackish bow ties, Lazy Jack Press ties and socks

**WOMEN:** Bags, tops, fun jewelry, gift cards

**FRIEND:** Coffee table book or picture frame

**KIDS:** Festive pajamas, Manhattan Toy Co. wooden toys, or puzzles and coloring rolls

*Pictured from left to right are co-owners Sarah Thomas and Mary Lacey R. Zeiders.*

*Photo by Toni Riales*

# THE IVY COTTAGE

Legacy Village, 9 Du Rhu Dr. #360, Mobile  
[ivycottageonline.com](http://ivycottageonline.com)

**Store hours:** Monday through Saturday,  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ivy Cottage, located in Legacy Village in Mobile, specializes in dinnerware and entertaining products, while its sister store – Ivy Cottage Retreat – offers bed and bath linens. The store offers a wedding registry for in-store and online shopping. Items include candles, bath soaps and personal care products, travel bags and baby gifts.

Most items are available on the website, and the store offers delivery in the immediate area and shipping options.

Due to the pandemic, the owners separated merchandise into two stores for social distancing. “Creating a second store for the linens and sleepwear has been a great change for us,” said **Terry Gray**, owner. “In fact, this fall we will move Retreat to a larger space in Legacy Village just three doors from our main store.”

Gray encourages everyone to shop early for the holidays to get the items they want. “Lots of customers collect dinnerware or special stemware that their family and friends can give them for holidays and birthdays. This year, I would encourage anyone planning to buy something special to make sure we have it now. If we need to order it, we need to do so ASAP.”

## TOP GIFT SUGGESTIONS

**MEN:** Barware, glasses, cocktail shakers, julep cups

**WOMEN:** Pajamas, robes

**CO-WORKER/FRIEND:** Vase, serving pieces like a charcuterie board, a salad bowl and servers, or French kitchen towels.

Photo by Tori Riales









# YESTERDAY'S TREASURES & MORE

**1702B Government St. and  
3307 Dauphin Island Pkwy., Mobile**  
[yesterdaystreasures.me](http://yesterdaystreasures.me)

**Store hours:** By appointment

Yesterday's Treasures & More is a family-owned antique and vintage resale shop. In operation for five years, the store sells glassware, furniture items, accessories and vintage knickknacks.

The pandemic affected sales at this brick-and-mortar store, so owner **DeWanda Davis** is working to create an online presence. "Customers can reach us through our Facebook page, phone or email to make an appointment," she said.

Davis recommends giving gifts that can be repurposed and shopping at more local small businesses. She adds, "People have become more nostalgic since the pandemic, and we have items that bring back family memories. Some customers have told me how items they find in the store remind them of loved ones."

## TOP GIFT SUGGESTIONS

**MEN:** Caps and accessories

**WOMEN:** Glassware and ladies' hats

**CO-WORKER/FRIEND:** Unique collectibles (angels, cups, jewelry, salt and pepper shakers, etc.)

Photo by Toni Riales



Photo by Toni Riales

## LOCAL GIFTS FOR MEN

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season? Our member retailers on the previous pages offer suggestions for almost everyone on your list.

① **Metzger's**

Sport coats in great colors that can be worn dressy or with a pair of jeans



①

② **The Art Store**

Gift certificates for adult art classes, a varied selection of turned woodworks and catch-all dishes perfect for home or office.



②

③ **The Holiday**

Brackish Bow Ties, Lazy Jack Press ties and socks



③

④ **The Ivy Cottage**

Barware, glasses, cocktail shakers, julep cups



④

## LOCAL GIFTS FOR WOMEN



①



④



③



②



⑤



### ① Metzger's

An elegant wrap or handbag are great gifts or maybe a simple wallet

### ② The Art Store

Casual and elegant jewelry, gift certificates

### ③ The Holiday

Bags, tops, fun jewelry, gift cards

### ④ The Ivy Cottage

Decorative serving pieces

### ⑤ Yesterday's Treasures & More

Glassware and ladies' hats

## LOCAL GIFTS FOR FRIENDS OR CO-WORKERS

### ① The Art Store

Ceramic mugs or bowls by a variety of artists, museum membership

### ② The Holiday

Candles or initial notepads, coffee table book or a picture frame

**PRO TIP:** Always make a gift to a friend personal. Write a note in the coffee table book or gift the picture frame with a photo inside of the two of you!

### ③ The Ivy Cottage

Great vase, serving pieces like a charcuterie board, a salad bowl and servers, or beautiful French kitchen towels.

### ④ Yesterday's Treasures & More

Unique collectibles – angels, cups, jewelry, salt and pepper shakers, lamps, etc.



①



②



③



④

## LOCAL GIFTS FOR KIDS

### The Holiday

Manhattan Toy Company wooden toys, or puzzles and coloring rolls

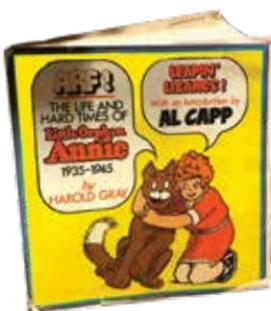


### The Ivy Cottage

Baby gifts, ceramic mugs and stuffed toys

### The Art Store

Unique pieces of artwork to display in their rooms or a private, two-hour visit with friends and family to the exhibition "The Elements of Art & Design" when you make a reservation online ([mobilemuseumofart.com/for-children-timed-tickets](http://mobilemuseumofart.com/for-children-timed-tickets)).



### Yesterday's Treasures & More

Keepsakes, books

# HOW TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

## SUGGESTIONS FROM THE MOBILE AREA CHAMBER



BUY A GIFT VOUCHER

FOLLOW THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA



LIKE/COMMENT THEIR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

LEAVE A POSITIVE REVIEW



BOOK AN APPOINTMENT



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY  
15 NOVEMBER 27, 2021

# CHAMBER CHASE GOES 'ON A BOAT'

Even in a year as challenging as 2020, **Melissa Cross**, owner and CEO of McAleer's Office Furniture, energetically chaired the Mobile Area Chamber's annual Chamber Chase campaign. With the campaign theme "Like a Boss," Cross led the way to exceed the campaign's goal.

She returned in 2021 with even more enthusiasm and creativity, and once again helping the Chamber's total resource campaign helped raise more than \$1.2 million through memberships, sponsorships, advertising and in-kind sponsorships for goods and services.

"Being asked to chair Chamber Chase for a second year was a huge honor," Cross said. "After chairing during the upheaval of 2020, I was a little more prepared for what to expect in 2021. I was motivated to be chair again by the exceptional team of volunteers I had come to know, appreciate and enjoy leading. It is difficult to explain how much work these amazing volunteers do every year for their teams and the Chamber."

This year's 25<sup>th</sup> annual campaign kicked off on April 22, with the theme "On a Boat."



Photo by Dawn Finch

*Melissa Cross, president of McAleer's Office Furniture, chaired the 2020 and 2021 Chamber Chase campaigns.*

With Cross as captain, 25 teams, representing 36 member companies, met weekly to share updates in a friendly, competitive race to meet their goals while waiting to see what Cross would do next.

"We never knew exactly what activity Melissa had in store for everyone," said **Carolyn Golson**, the Chamber's former vice president of membership. "But no one wanted to miss it."

From videos and games to reward prizes, weekly challenges, tips and motivational messages, Cross brought an abundance of spirit and surprises to the campaign's weekly reward sessions.

"We have a very passionate group of volunteers who look forward to the challenge, camaraderie and opportunities while supporting the Chamber," Golson said.

"What drives us all is our love of this city, our local businesses and the enormous economic impact that the Chamber of Commerce has on the well-being of Mobile," said Cross.

## Why Volunteer with Chamber Chase?

### We asked our volunteers why they volunteer year after year for Chamber Chase, and here's what they said:

- Enjoy being around energetic people and supporting the Chamber
- Helps me grow professionally
- Meeting people
- Networking
- Connecting with new folks
- Access to business leaders
- Great camaraderie

### How to Help

- Sponsor an event by visiting the campaign website [ChamberChase.com/sponsorship.aspx](http://ChamberChase.com/sponsorship.aspx), to see the variety of options available.
- Register a team to represent your company. This gives your company great exposure and provides your staff fun opportunities to meet others in our business community.
- Participate as a volunteer.

Call the Chamber membership department at **251.431.8628** for details.

# TOP PRODUCERS

## TOP VOLUNTEERS

### CATEGORY ONE AND OVERALL

Bernadette Windle, Roberts Brothers  
 Rachel New, Trustmark Bank  
 James Alexander, BancorpSouth

### CATEGORY TWO

Linda Faulkner, Evonik  
 Abe Harper, Harper Technologies  
 Erica Maize, Alabama Power

### TOP ROOKIE

Erica Maize, Alabama Power

### MOST NEW MEMBERS

Rachel New, Trustmark Bank  
 Terri Owler, Arkema

## TOP TEAMS

### CATEGORY ONE AND OVERALL

Trustmark Bank  
 Regions Bank  
 McAleer's Office Furniture

### CATEGORY TWO

Evonik Corp.  
 Harper Technologies  
 Alabama Power

### MOST NEW MEMBERS

Trustmark Bank

### TEAMS OVER GOAL

Alabama Power  
 Arkema  
 BancorpSouth  
 Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama  
 Century Bank  
 McAleer's Office Furniture  
 Regions Bank  
 Renasant Bank  
 Roberts Brothers  
 Spire  
 Trustmark Bank

# CHAMBER CHASE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

**Erica Maize**, a real estate specialist with Alabama Power, took the plunge this year and became a volunteer with the Mobile Area Chamber's Chamber Chase Campaign.

"This was my first year doing Chamber Chase," said Maize. "Although I knew I wanted to do it, I was very nervous. I didn't want to be rejected, and my fear kind of held me back. There's a term I like to use, 'Do it afraid,' and that's exactly what I did."

With the assistance of other team members, this year's Chamber Chase Chair Melissa Cross and the Chamber's former vice president of membership, Carolyn Golson, Maize worked alongside her teammates recruiting new Chamber members, signing up sponsors and



selling advertising spots. She worked to contribute more than \$21,000 to her team's overall goal and snagged the Rookie of the Year distinction.

Maize urges anyone interested in participating in Chamber Chase to do it. "You will not be disappointed," she said. "Let me be an inspiration for you. This was my first time doing it, and I made Rookie of the Year. It

brings you out of your comfort zone, and you experience growth personally and professionally."

She's already looking forward to next year's Chamber Chase. "I plan on doing better next year," she said. "If you see me out, please come up and speak. I would love to meet you."



# TEAMS

## ALABAMA POWER \$63,756



**Patrick Murphy**  
Vice President,  
Mobile Division



**Ryan Allenbach**  
Captain

Ryan Allenbach ..... \$35,603  
Erica Maize ..... \$21,125  
Team ..... \$7,028

## BB&T NOW TRUIST \$12,989



**Edward O'Gwynn III**  
Market President



**Mark Spivey**  
Captain

Mark Spivey ..... \$7,015  
Team ..... \$5,974

## C SPIRE \$29,507



**Philip McKibbin**  
Director of Sales

Team ..... \$29,507

## ARKEMA INC. \$49,673



**Rene Neron**  
Plant Manager



**Terri Owler**  
Captain

Sarah Colmer ..... \$5,600  
Terri Owler ..... \$44,648

## BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF ALABAMA \$36,298



**Clay Walden**  
District Manager



**Kay Williams**  
Captain

Nichole Edwards ..... \$21,138  
Hayes Spicer ..... \$12,000  
Kay Williams ..... \$3,160

## CENTURY BANK \$32,058



**Peter vanLingen II**  
President



**Janet Johnson**  
Captain

Janet Johnson ..... \$32,058

## BANCORPSOUTH \$59,004



**Chris Tracy**  
Market President



**James Alexander**  
Captain

James Alexander ..... \$48,000  
Elizabeth Bailey ..... \$7,204  
Team ..... \$3,800

## BLUE FISH \$21,260



**Marcus Neto**  
Creative Director

Marcus Neto ..... \$21,260

## CROW SHIELDS BAILEY PC \$11,935



**Gina McKellar**  
Managing Shareholder



**Kenny Crow III**  
Captain

Kenny Crow III ..... \$4,435  
Team ..... \$7,500

## EVONIK CORP. \$25,770



**Kel Boisvert**  
*Vice President and Site Manager*



**Linda Faulkner**  
*Captain*

Linda Faulkner..... \$25,770

## IBERIABANK \$4,750



**Ken Brown**  
*Executive Vice President and Market President*



**Virginia Knight**  
*Captain*

Virginia Knight.....\$4,750

## MOBILE AREA CHAMBER BOARD \$8,200



**Melissa Cross**  
*Captain*

Team..... \$8,200

## HANCOCK WHITNEY BANK \$39,795



**Guy Helmsing**  
*Senior Vice President and Market President*



**Spencer Wiggins**  
*Captain*

Tremaine Perry.....\$7,500  
Spencer Wiggins ..... \$13,130  
Team .....\$19,165

## LLB&B INC. REAL ESTATE \$13,517



**Melissa Morrissette**  
*Captain*

Melissa Morrissette .....\$13,517

## MOBILE AREA CHAMBER GROWTH ALLIANCE TASK FORCE \$6,854



**Nate Patterson**  
*Captain*

Carita Koen .....\$4,014  
Gina Hitchens .....\$455  
Nate Patterson ..... \$2,385

## MCALEER'S OFFICE FURNITURE \$78,728



**Melissa Cross**  
*President*



**Sarah McAleer**  
*Captain*

Sarah McAleer ..... \$33,061  
Shelly Perrone .....\$275  
Team.....\$45,392

## REGIONS BANK \$96,570



**Christian White**  
*South Alabama Area President*



**Bruner Binion**  
*Captain*

Trish Banker ..... \$9,395  
Bruner Binion ..... \$2,500  
Julye Jenkins ..... \$39,275  
Team .....\$45,400

## HARPER TECHNOLOGIES \$10,035



**Abe Harper**  
*President*

Abe Harper ..... \$9,500  
Cecily Harper .....\$535

## MOBILE AREA CHAMBER AMBASSADORS \$9,275

Kirsten Loper ..... \$3,925  
Team..... \$5,350

## RENASANT BANK \$27,044



**Mark Fillers**  
South Alabama  
Market President



**Ryan New**  
Captain

TJ Naman..... \$5,265  
Ryan New.....\$14,279  
Team.....\$7,500

## SERVISFIRST BANK \$27,149



**Bibb Lamar**  
Chairman and CEO

Morgan Kennedy..... \$3,120  
Garrett Powe.....\$2,889  
Team.....\$20,837

## TRUSTMARK BANK \$124,523



**Mike Fitzhugh**  
South Alabama  
Region President



**Rachel New**  
Captain

Dawn Finch .....\$31,971  
BJ Griswold ..... \$5,000  
Rachel New ..... \$58,191  
Wendy Turner ..... \$20,112  
Team .....\$9,249

## ROBERTS BROTHERS \$64,779



**Daniel A. Dennis IV**  
President



**Ann Akridge**  
Captain

Ann Akridge.....\$320  
Emily Hatcher .....\$850  
Chrissi Moore.....\$2,705  
Bernadette Windle ..... \$60,904

## SPIRE \$30,948



**Karl Ficken**  
General Manager



**George Hunter**  
Captain

George Hunter.....\$17,500  
Harris Oswald ..... \$13,448

## YELLOWHAMMER INVESTMENT GROUP \$3,868



**Joseph Brashears**  
Manager/Owner



**Sadie Buchanan**  
Captain

Sadie Buchanan..... \$3,868

# FINAL TOTAL \$1,245,611

Chamber Chase volunteers help recruit much-needed resources in support of the Chamber's core programs.

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Board of Advisors



Sponsorships of Projects/Events and In-kind



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# How to Volunteer with the Mobile Area Chamber

The Mobile Area Chamber offers volunteer opportunities through its many task forces and committees.

“Serving on a Chamber-led committee is a great way to get involved in the work the Chamber is doing for our community,” said **Carolyn Golson**, the Chamber’s former vice president of membership. “No matter your interest, the Chamber is sure to have a committee to help you take advantage of your membership.”

Below is a list of Chamber committees and task forces, along with the department facilitating the group and who to contact to get involved.

## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Contact **Brenda Rembert** at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com).

### Executive Roundtable

A forum for small business owners and managers featuring speakers discussing important business issues to help them manage and grow their business. Attendees also network to foster business relationships and share information and best practices. The roundtable meets monthly.

### Growth Alliance Task Force

This task force promotes the growth of minority-owned businesses through increased awareness of Chamber programs and membership and provides entrepreneurial training workshops and diversity, equity and inclusion business forums. Task force members serve on active sub-committees including business development, outreach, finance and sponsorships. The task force meets monthly.

## MEMBERSHIP

Contact **Michael Galvin** at 251.431.8628 or [mgalvin@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mgalvin@mobilechamber.com).

### Ambassadors

Volunteers serve as ambassadors for the Chamber and work to enhance member relations. Ambassadors meet bimonthly and also attend scheduled networking events and member grand openings/ribbon cuttings. Participants must work for a Chamber member business.

### Board of Advisors

The Chamber board of advisors adds value to your membership by providing access, interaction and a high level of recognition for advisors’ companies. These investors are top-ranking company executives with a desire to engage in peer-to-peer interaction in a variety of venues to connect with the inner workings of the Mobile-area business community.



*Growth Alliance Task Force*

### Chamber Chase

Volunteers drive this total resource development campaign by recruiting new members, securing sponsorships for Chamber events, selling ads in Chamber publications and obtaining needed goods and services. The campaign officially runs May through mid-August but volunteers may be involved year-round. Any employee of a Chamber company may participate.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Contact **Christopher Mayfield** at 251.431.8654 or [cmayfield@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cmayfield@mobilechamber.com).

### Business First

This business retention and expansion program is designed to assist Chamber members with identifying their company’s immediate needs, challenges, future plans and opportunities aimed to increase economic development.

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Contact **Christopher Mayfield** at 251.431.8654 or [cmayfield@mobilechamber.com](mailto:cmayfield@mobilechamber.com).

### Trade Briefings

Held to promote overseas markets and provide valuable insights into market strategies and a country’s overall economic well-being.

### Trade Missions (inbound and outbound)

Mobile companies can participate in state-led trade missions to promote business relations and increase Alabama exports to expand our economy and create jobs. Companies travel to different countries to develop and diversify their markets globally.

### Trade Workshops and Seminars

These events are held to provide export education and discuss international trade issues and policy to area companies.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Contact **Maggie Oliver** at 251.431.8601 or [moliver@mobilechamber.com](mailto:moliver@mobilechamber.com).

### Build the Bridge Coalition

This coalition works to find ways to promote economic development through investments in strong, modern infrastructure.

### Governmental Affairs Committee

This group reviews and researches legislative priorities on both the state and federal level; develops the Chamber's legislative agenda; and makes issue and policy recommendations to the Chamber's board of directors. Involved members should have responsibility for public policy-making within their organizations. The committee meets regularly during the state legislative session (spring) and as needed through the remainder of the year.

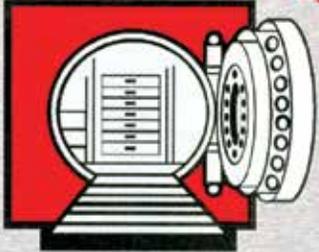
### Military Affairs Committee

This committee seeks to strengthen the relationship between the Mobile business community and members of the military by communicating issues important to the military community and raising awareness of the military's impact on our local economy.

Don't see a group of interest? Contact **Michael Galvin** at **251.431.8628**, or visit [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com) for more information.

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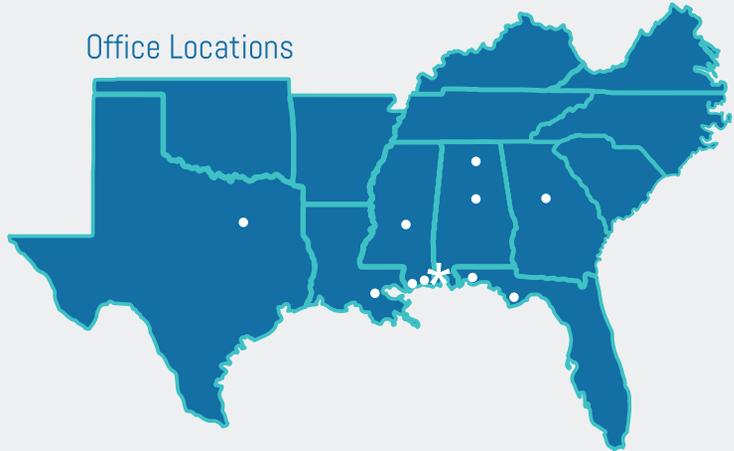
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# RENASANT BANK



Mark Fillers, south Alabama market president for Renasant Bank, is shown at Renasant's downtown location.

**Company officials:** Mark Fillers, South Alabama market president; Ryan New, senior vice president, commercial relationship officer; Sam Jeffcoat, senior vice president, commercial relationship officer; Cassandra Burks, vice president, private banking officer; Poenta Luckie, Baldwin County market president; Suzanne Chatten, mortgage production manager; Noel Turner, senior mortgage banker.

**Address:** 1 N. Royal St., Mobile

**Number of local employees:** 23

**Website:** [renasantbank.com](http://renasantbank.com)

**Years in business:** 117

**Brief company description:** Renasant Bank started in 1904 in a bakery in Lee County, Miss., with \$100,000. Since then, the bank has grown to become one of the Southeast's strongest financial institutions with approximately \$16 billion in assets and more than 200 banking, lending, wealth management and financial service offices in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida. Renasant officials say the bank's success stems from each of its teammates' commitment to diversity and inclusion, and investing in their communities as a way of better understanding the people it serves. Renasant has two branches and a mortgage office in Mobile and a third branch in Fairhope to serve its clients in south Alabama.

**Why do you support the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce's Partners for Growth Initiative?** "It is vital we support our Chamber and focus on economic development in our greater Mobile area," said Fillers. "Partners for Growth empowers the Chamber to do more, specifically with economic development, thus growing our small, mid-size and larger businesses in our community and providing more quality job opportunities for all. I'm hopeful with continued success creating higher-paying jobs, Mobile will bring more young people back to live, work and play."

**How long have you been a continuous Mobile Area Chamber Member?** Since 2017

**About Partners For Growth:** Growing Global, Investing Local 2018-2022, Partners For Growth is a five-year, public-private initiative of the Mobile Area Chamber, to grow and diversify Mobile's economy. Its five pillars include: 1) new business recruitment and investment attraction; 2) existing industry support, innovation and entrepreneurship; 3) workforce attraction, retention and development; 4) diverse business development; and 5) business advocacy and quality of place. Join the Chamber's economic development investors by contacting David Rodgers, vice president, economic development, at 251.431.8657 or [drodgers@mobilechamber.com](mailto:drodgers@mobilechamber.com).





## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

# ROB ROGERS

### VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTHEAST INC.

**TITLE:** CEO

**HOMETOWN:** Baltimore, Md.

**EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in psychology from Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pa.; master's degree in business administration from University of West Alabama in Livingston, Ala.; and a master's degree in psychology from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.

**FIRST JOB:** I mowed a lot of grass, but also worked as a waiter.

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:** Rogers has served in numerous leadership positions with Volunteers of America (VOA) throughout the country, including VOA Chesapeake and VOA Carolinas, where he served as the president and CEO.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** He is a founding and current board member of the Alabama Service Providers Association, which represents organizations serving the developmentally disabled.

**WHAT WORD WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF?**  
Giving

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** Prioritizing God and family above work

**FAVORITE FOOD/RESTAURANT:** I love Chinese and Thai food.

**WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR LONG-TERM PROFESSIONAL GOALS?** I'm living it!

**YOUR FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Christmas

**YOUR GREATEST INDULGENCE:** Diet Mountain Dew

**OUTSIDE OF WORK, WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?** I love to do jigsaw puzzles.

**WHAT IS YOUR PASSION?** Caring for those in need.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE WRITER?** Clive Cussler

**WHAT QUALITY DO YOU MOST LIKE IN PEOPLE?** Compassion

**BEST PLACE TO GET AWAY FROM IT ALL:** I love going to the beach.

**BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB:** I get to have a positive impact on the lives of others.

**BRIEF COMPANY DESCRIPTION:** Volunteers of America is one of the nation's largest comprehensive human services organizations, with 16,000 mission-driven professionals dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. Founded in 1896, the faith-based nonprofit has programs in 46 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, serving more than 1.5 million people per year.



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The Mobile Area Chamber has implemented safety precautions for all our staff and guests at this year's Business Expo including sanitizing stations, optional masks and social distancing guidelines.



## JUERGEN HELLMICH

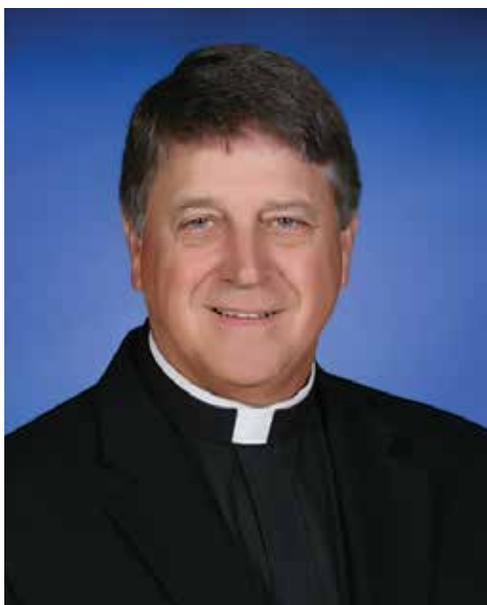
### iSAM NORTH AMERICA

**Hellmich** is the founder and CEO of iSAM North America (iSAM NA), which was established in the United States in 2008. The company's roots stem from its German counterpart, iSAM AG, also founded by Hellmich in the industrialized city of Muelheim an der Ruhr, Germany, in 1983. He received a doctoral degree from the University of Aachen, and has more than 33 years of professional experience within the field of automation technology.

## MARCOS NETO

### BLUE FISH

**Neto** is the owner of Blue Fish, a digitally focused advertising agency that helps small- and medium-sized organizations overcome obscurity. He is a member of the board for Fuse Project, and he and his team are also behind the website MobileAL.com. Blue Fish was named the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Year in 2018. He is a graduate of James Madison University with a bachelor's degree in English and the Chamber's and U.S. Small Business Administration's Emerging Leaders program.



## WILLIAM BRY SHIELDS

### MCGILL-TOOLEN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Shields** is president of McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. He was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 15, 1984, and has served St. Ignatius, St. Mary and St. Pius X, where he is currently pastor. Shields earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University; a master's degree in divinity from Yale University; and a master's degree in education from the University of South Alabama. He is past president of Mobile Rotary Club.

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**T**he Mobile Area Chamber will visit Scotland, leaving Aug. 7, 2022, and would like to invite you to join this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Enjoy an eight-day journey to Scotland, with two nights in Edinburgh, two nights in Inverness and two nights in Glasgow. Enjoy city tours of Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Inverness, Stirling and Glasgow. Visit some of the many castles, cathedrals and historic monuments Scotland has to offer, as well as a guided tour of the Old Course at St. Andrews and the famous Loch Ness.

Explore the city of Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, and visit Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, one of Scotland's most popular museums.

The cost of the tour is \$3,849 per person, based on double occupancy, if booked by Nov. 30, 2021. The price includes round trip airfare from Mobile, round trip transportation between airports and hotel, nine hotel nights and 11 meals (daily breakfast, one lunch and one dinner).

### ITINERARY

2 Nights in Edinburgh  
2 Nights in Inverness  
2 Nights in Glasgow

To learn more about the tour contact **Brooke McIngvale** at 251.431.8640 or [bmcingvale@mobilechamber.com](mailto:bmcingvale@mobilechamber.com) and visit [mobilechamber.com/calendar/chamber-travel](http://mobilechamber.com/calendar/chamber-travel) to reserve your spot.



### Trip Amenities:

- Round trip scheduled airfare
- Hotel accommodations for nine nights
- Tours of Edinburgh Castle and Rosslyn Chapel; Edinburgh, Inverness and Glasgow city tours
- Time to visit: Dunfermline Abbey, Stirling Castle, St. Andrews Castle and Cathedral, Urquhart Castle, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Glasgow Cathedral



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## ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER

### TONI RIALES

Toni Riales is a commercial photographer with a studio located in Mobile. After starting out in radio, she became a fashion photographer who now has 20 years of professional photography experience. She works with local, regional and national magazines for fashion editorial; shoots commercial, food and product photography for small and large businesses; and creates portfolios for modeling agencies across the country. Her work has been featured in magazines including *Mobile Bay*, *Cliché Los Angeles*, *Fashion Chicago*, *EnVie Tokyo* and *Vogue Italia*, as well as numerous others. Riales' work is featured on the cover, as well as the Shop Local story starting on page 14. To see more of her portfolio, visit [toniriales.com](http://toniriales.com).



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# NOVEMBER 2021

For more information on Chamber events, visit [mobilechamber.com](http://mobilechamber.com)

**COVID-19 Protocols:** The Mobile Area Chamber is committed to maintaining a healthy atmosphere for all attendees at each of our events and continues to closely monitor the COVID Delta variant surge. Space for social distancing has been considered at each event venue, and we will encourage reasonable use of masks while indoors. Masks and hand sanitizer will be readily available at all events. Please refer to the Chamber's calendar of events or our social media pages for the latest updates.

## 3 COFFEE WITH THE CHAMBER

Start your day with the Chamber and network with other business attendees.

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Where:** Community Foundation of South Alabama, 212 St. Joseph St.

**Contact:** Molly Tillman at 251-431-8650 or [mtillman@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mtillman@mobilechamber.com)

**Cost:** No charge

**Sponsor:** S&S Sprinkler

**Host:** Community Foundation of South Alabama

## 10 NETWORKING@NOON

*\*Members only; one representative per company*

Make 20-plus business contacts in 90 minutes over lunch.

**When:** Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Outback Steakhouse, 3017 Airport Blvd.

**Cost:** \$10 and must be paid with reservation

**Contact:** Molly Tillman at 251-431-8650 or [mtillman@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mtillman@mobilechamber.com)

*Reservations required.*

**Sponsor:** Keesler Federal Credit Union and Outback Steakhouse

## 16 EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

*\*Members only.*

A monthly forum for Chamber-member small business owners and managers featuring speakers on important business topics.

**When:** 8 to 9 a.m.

**Where:** Mobile Area Chamber, 401 Government St.

**Speakers:** University presidents

**Topic:** "Covid-19 Update"

**Contact:** Brenda Rembert at 251.431.8607 or [brembert@mobilechamber.com](mailto:brembert@mobilechamber.com)

**Sponsor:** BancorpSouth

## 18 BUSINESS EXPO

Mobile's premier business-to-business trade show featuring local companies showcasing the latest products and services, along with business resources, giveaways, food and beverage samples, and more.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** Mobile Convention Center - Expo Hall

**Cost:** \$5 general admission (with business card) or stop by the Chamber for a free ticket

**Contact:** Mallory Tyson at 251.431.8655 or [mtyson@mobilechamber.com](mailto:mtyson@mobilechamber.com)

**Sponsors:** Alabama Dept. of Commerce, Office of Small Business Advocacy, All In Credit Union, Bishop State Community College, C Spire, Express Employment Professionals, Harper Technologies, Keesler Federal Credit Union, Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, Shoe Station, Springhill Medical Center, Titanium Wireless, Troy University

**Printing Sponsor:** Calagaz Printing

## 25 & 26 THANKSGIVING

Chamber closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

THANK YOU TO THE  
SPONSORS OF OUR  
NOVEMBER EVENTS



## WHO'S NEW

**River Bank & Trust Hires VP/Private Banking Manager**

Coker

**Sherry Coker** joined **River Bank & Trust** as vice president and coastal region private banking manager to provide tailored financial solutions to high-net-worth individuals and professionals in Mobile, Baldwin

and surrounding counties. Coker majored in media and communications at East Tennessee State University. She is an Alabama Banking School graduate.

**Cummings & Associates Inc. Hires Commercial Property Manager**

Shepard

**Cummings & Associates Inc.** hired **Frank Shepard** as a commercial property manager and leasing and sales agent. Shepard has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Auburn

University of Montgomery and brings more than a decade of business development, marketing and sales experience to the company.

**Roberts Brothers Adds New Agents**

Davidson



Ellis



Lewis



Little



Mize



Nettles



Siddiqi



Smith



Williamson



Yeager

**Roberts Brothers** hired the following agents: **Delaney Davidson, Terri Ellis, Sabrina Lewis, Paige Little, Scott Mize, Lakeita Nettles, Samantha Siddiqi, Austin Smith, Raquel Williamson** and **Jerre Yeager**.

**Neurocritical Physician Joins Mobile Infirmary Staff**

Mobile Infirmary welcomed **Dr. John Andrew Cox**, a neurocritical care and endovascular surgical neuroradiology physician who will help develop its Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center. Cox earned a medical degree from the Ross University School of Medicine. He completed residency and internship with the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he served as chief resident.

**The Orthopaedic Group PC Welcomes New Spine Surgeon**

Henderson

The **Orthopaedic Group PC** hired spine specialist **Dr. Andrew T. Henderson**. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from Auburn University and a medical degree from the University of South Alabama. Henderson completed a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta. He recently completed a spine fellowship at the Spine Institute of Arizona in Scottsdale. Henderson is a board-eligible orthopaedic surgeon and a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

**Morning Meteorologist Named at WKRG**

Carithers

**Caroline Carithers** is the new weekday morning meteorologist at **WKRG News 5**. Carithers has a bachelor's degree in meteorology from the University of South Alabama.

**Visit Mobile Hires New Marketing and Communications Manager**

Mestas

**Lexi Mestas** is the new marketing and communications manager at Visit Mobile. Mestas has a bachelor's in political science from Loyola University in New Orleans and a master's degree in food studies from American University of Rome. She also earned an entrepreneurship specialization from Wharton Online.

**Spring Hill College Names EVP/CFO**

**Kenneth W. England** is the new executive vice president and chief financial officer at Spring Hill College. England brings more than 12 years of experience in policy, budget operations, stewardship and engagement. He earned a bachelor's degree in human resource development and a master's degree in education from Samford University, then earned a doctorate in higher education administration from The University of Alabama.

**IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER TOUGH YEAR. THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME MOMENTS LIKE THIS.**

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SOUTH ALABAMA**

## BUSINESS ENDEAVORS

### Threaded Fasteners Acquires RTC Threaders

Mobile-headquartered **Threaded Fasteners** acquired Indiana-based RTC Threaders, formally Ruja Tooling Corp. RTC manufactures, assembles and distributes its fleet of Eagle Machines, known for their long operational life.

### New Contracts for Austal USA

**Austal USA** recently won two U.S. Navy contracts. The company will repair, maintain and modernize all Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) homeported in San Diego, Calif. and Mayport, Fla. This includes all Austal-built Independence-variant LCS as well as the west-coast based Freedom-variant LCS. Company officials say Austal USA is now positioned to support the entire LCS fleet worldwide.

### Mobile County Health Department Receives Grants

**Mobile County Health Department (MCHD)** was awarded several grants to help continue its traditional public health services of education, prevention and the promotion of wellness. The grants included \$17.8 million from Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for enhancing detection through coronavirus response and relief; \$1.25 million from the National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities; \$30,000 from **The J.L. Bedsole Foundation**; and \$27,000 from the Crampton Trust to support vaccination efforts.

### MCHD's Family Health Receives Telehealth Award

Family Health – the primary care division of the **Mobile County Health Department** – was awarded funding to purchase remote patient monitoring equipment and a telehealth software platform, focusing on patients with high blood pressure because of the increased risk of experiencing severe complications from COVID-19.

The Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 telehealth program supports the efforts of healthcare providers to continue serving their patients by providing reimbursement for telecommunications services, information services and connected devices necessary to enable telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## WELL DONE

### Burr & Forman Attorneys Named Among the 2022 Best Lawyers in America

**Burr & Forman LLP** announced the inclusion of 184 of its attorneys among the Best Lawyers in America for 2022. Those hailing from the firm's Mobile office include: Lawyer of the Year, **Douglas Anderson, Forrest Latta** and **William Daniels Jr.**; Best Lawyers in America, Mobile: **Douglas Anderson, John Browning, William Daniels Jr., John Kavanagh, Forrest Latta, Michael Stravach, William Wasden** and **Ricardo Woods**.

### County Commissioner Honored



Hudson

District 2 Mobile County Commissioner **Connie Hudson** received the 2021 Carl Perkins Community Service Award from the Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education.

The award recognizes individuals who have supported career and technical education to positively impact the community and who demonstrate leadership in programs and activities that promote student involvement in community services.

### Thompson Engineering Named Accredited Quality Contractor

**Thompson Engineering** was named an Accredited Quality Contractor by Associated Builders and Contractors, the third year it has earned the credential for its commitment to corporate responsibility. Only 229 of the nation's elite merit shop construction contractors earned the credential in 2020.



Shumaker

In other news, Thompson Engineering Safety Director **Mike Shumaker** earned the Certified Safety Professional certification, internationally accredited by the highest of qualifications set by the American National Standards Institute.

### The Net Effect Employee Gets Cybersecurity Credential



Adair

**Mitch Adair** with The Net Effect was recently credentialed as a cybersecurity maturity model certification (CMMC) registered practitioner. The CMMC program certifies the security of information systems in Department of Defense contractors and subcontractors.

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# STATE OF THE CITY & COUNTY

WEDNESDAY,  
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BALLROOM

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MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MERCERIA LUDGOOD,  
CONNIE HUDSON AND RANDALL DUEITT.

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## Alabama Power Cited Among Nation's Top Economic Development Utilities

*Site Selection* magazine named **Alabama Power** one of the nation's Top 20 utilities in economic development, citing the company's work to help recruit industry and create jobs throughout the state. The company earned the recognition for work in 2020, a year that included the challenges of the pandemic and the related economic slowdown. The Alabama Power economic and community development team had a hand in announcements totaling \$2 billion in new and expanded capital investment and nearly 3,000 jobs, including ArcelorMittal's \$500 million investment and 300-job expansion.

## University of Mobile Named Among Best Colleges

The **University of Mobile (UM)** earned top honors from *U.S. News & World Report* in the 2022 Best Colleges rankings, coming in at No. 30. The annual report assesses academic quality among regionally accredited colleges and universities throughout the U.S. UM was the highest-ranked regional college in Alabama for veterans, named No. 9 Best Regional College in the South for Veterans. Overall, UM was named No. 15 Best Regional College in the South, tied with University of South Carolina Upstate and named a "Best Value School" among regional colleges in the South. Best Value Schools are chosen based on academic quality and net cost of attendance.

## Austal USA Earns 14<sup>th</sup> Shipbuilders Council of America Safety Award

**Austal USA** earned the Shipbuilders Council of America's (SCA) 2020 Excellence in Safety award. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> SCA safety award Austal has earned in its 20-year history, including awards the last seven consecutive years.

SCA's Excellence in Safety award is based on Austal's commitment to safety by maintaining a total recordable incident rate well below the respective Bureau of Labor and Statistics industry average assigned for shipbuilding.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### AmFirst Raised Money for Annual Food Drive

**America's First Federal Credit Union**, alongside partners ABC 33/40, The CW 21 and My 68 WABM, announced it raised \$25,000 and a total of 19,500 food items — approximately 116,250 meals — during its Feeding Families Across Alabama Food Drive.

## Girl Scout Earns Highest Award



Breshears

**Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama** presented **Grace Breshears** its highest honor, the Girl Scout Gold Award. In her project, Breshears incorporated Leave No Trace principles,

centered around minimizing the human footprint in the outdoors, at Scoutshire Woods, to promote outdoor education and preservation. The award is given to Girl Scout seniors and ambassadors (9-12 grade).

Submission deadline for Member News is two months prior to publication. News releases should be one or two brief paragraphs. Photos must be professional headshots labeled with the person's first and last name, and must be 300 dpi at full size and saved in an eps, tiff or jpg format. Send your information to [news@mobilechamber.com](mailto:news@mobilechamber.com).

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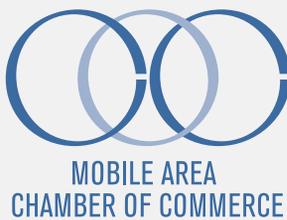
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The Cardiovascular Team at Springhill Medical Center includes (left to right):  
R. Lewis Wilson, Jr., MD; Nicole Annes, PA; Alyssa Bray, CRNP; Zachary Q. Hughes, PA; and Charles H. Wyatt, MD.

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